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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/919,947	08/29/97	RICHARDSON	R 310030-234

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EXAMINER

WARD, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 09/15/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/919,947

Applicant(s)
Richardson

Examiner
John A. Ward

Group Art Unit
2875



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 4, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-99 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) 1-80 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 81-99 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 4, 5, 7

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 81, and 89-91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Amstutz et al (US 4,955,044).
4. Amstutz et al ('044) discloses in the prior art of record a lighted display case comprising of an integral frame work 16 (line 21 column 3), rear sliding doors 28 (line 23 column 3), a ballast 44 mounted to the bottom member 46 of the base portion 14 (line 49-50 column 3), a fluorescent tube socket extending downwardly from a subframe 101 (figure 19, 20), an electrical cord 36 and wiring assembly 38 (line 45-46 column 3).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 82-88, 92-99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Amstutz et al in view of Kelman (US 2,522,044) and in further view of Seoke et al

(US 5,768,898)..

8. Amstutz et al ('044) discloses in the prior art of record a lighted display case comprising of an integral frame work 16 (line 21 column 3), rear sliding doors 28 (line 23 column 3), a ballast 44 mounted to the bottom member 46 of the base portion 14 (line 49-50 column 3), a fluorescent tube socket extending downwardly from a subframe 101 (figure 19, 20), an electrical cord 36 and wiring assembly 38 (line 45-46 column 3) but does not disclose the physical description of the fluorescent lamp socket or the temperature tolerance of the ballast..

9. Kelman ('044) discloses in the prior art of record a fluorescent light socket comprising of contact fingers 45 with arcuate shape of the surface area (figure 3), longitudinal connection movement with the lamp 11 (figure 1).

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10. Having a hollow-cylindrical shape for accepting the pin contact of the fluorescent lamp 11 (figure 1) and covering the pin by at least 50 percent (figure 5), a split sleeve contact that connect to the lamp 43 which can either be screwed or solder (figure 6 and 11), with the pins having engage the lamp over at least 180 degree of circumferential surface of the lamp pins (line 50-53 column 3).
11. The surface area of the electrical contacts are a design choice, along with the use of a polymer as the housing of the socket, the use of 16 gauge wire is obvious since 16 gauge wire and it's use is known in the art.
12. Seok et al discloses in the prior art a refrigerator having a fluorescent lamp for illuminating fresh food compartment comprising of a fluorescent lamp 39, and a ballast 33 (line 59-60 column 3), which is located within the refrigerated area (figure 1).
13. Therefore it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the fluorescent lamp of Amstutz et al with the socket of Kelman and the temperature tolerate ballast of Seok et al in order to provide a fluorescent lamp installed in the fresh food compartment, and is turned on and off according to the opening and closing of a door as disclosed in the abstract of Seok et al ('898).

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Conclusion

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John A. Ward whose telephone number is (703) 305-5157.

16. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea, can be reached at (703) 305-4939. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 305-3432.

17. Any inquiries of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0596.


Sandra O'Shea
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

JAW

August 31, 1999